**Theatre Arts Book List for Students**

Johnson-Brown, Anne. **The Ten Commandments of Theatre**. New Hampshire: Smith and Kraus Inc. 2007.

*Description: This book is provides students with a ten step process that helps to guide actors from the moment they are cast to performing on stage. Each chapter is presented as a commandment and gives great advice for actors as they develop their characters for performance. It also assists with rehearsal techniques. Chapters deal with scoring scripts and developing a warm up routine. Students can take these “commandments” and implement the proposed techniques in their acting assignments. The book is very simple to read and gives a lot of good advice to a young actor. If I see an actor struggling in a particular area I can pass along this book to them to assist them. I’ve also used this book to help plan lessons for my classes.*

Peithman, Stephen; Neil Offen. **The Stage Directions Guide to Auditions**. New Hampshire: Heinemann. 1999.

*Description: This is a great book for the young actor who wants additional advice on how to plan and prepare for auditions. The book works both for film and the stage. Sometimes we think we have a plan for auditions but this book gives hints on other things that we might forget about in our preparations. It is a great book to have in your theatre library for actors who want additional support in auditioning. Students can read about and practice these techniques offered and it provides great class discussion material. This book has also helped me plan additional lessons for the class.*

Bruder, Melissa. **A Practical Handbook for the Actor**. New York: Vintage Books. 1986.

*Description: This is a very good resource book for the actor who may experience frustrations in acting classes when they need more clarification about certain techniques such as play analysis and character development. The book gives great examples on how to analyze a play such as “Streetcar Named Desire”. If you are discussing the play in class, this book can provide companion material for students to read and look over.*

Stanislavski, Constantin. **Building a Character**. New York: Routledge. 1989.

*Description: There are numerous printings of this book and you can also consider his other works: “Creating a Role” and “An Actor Prepares”. The books are written as if an acting student was writing about his experiences during his training. It is a lot like a story that is teaching you about Stanislavski’s Method Acting techniques. I encourage students to keep an acting journal reflecting about their experiences. Having the class read excerpts from this book can really help them understand what a good reflection of your experience in acting class can look like. It is descriptive, informative, and a classic that every acting student should be exposed too. I’ve read aloud excerpts from these books to students as an introduction to particular concepts that I am teaching.*

Allen, David. **Stanislavski for Beginners**. New York. Writers and Readers Publishing. 1999.

*Description: This is a very interesting book in the fact that it is written much like a comic book. The book is full of illustrations and facts that deal with the history of Stanislavski’s Method Acting and specifics in the techniques themselves. This is a great tool to bring out and have the students read for quick tid-bits of acting history.*

Jory, Jon. **TIPS Ideas for Actors**. New Hampshire. Smith and Kraus Book. 2000.

*Description: The book contains 205 tips for actors. The tips include things like setting up laughs and the importance of identifying a character’s objective. I’ve used these as “tip for the day” by having a student read one and follow with a class discussion concerning the tip.*

Clark, Leroy. **Writing for the Stage**. New York. Pearson. 2006.

*Description: This is more of a text book and is used to compliment lessons that involve writing scenes for class. I like to print reading materials from this book and we discuss it in class as a way to reinforce what we are learning. A chapter 2 deal with getting an idea for a play and it provides great advice and strategies to overcome the difficulty of “getting started”. It is a great book to have in your theatre library and to make available for those students who want to explore writing plays even more.*

**Theatre Books for Teachers** – Resources

Jones, Justine; Mary Ann Kelly. **Improv Ideas**. Colorado. Meriwether Publishing Ltd. 2006.

*Description: This book contains tons of good improv ideas that can be used in warm up activities. I am always looking for a quick scene assignment or game that the students can use and the ones in this book are actually pretty good. One thing I like about this book is that it contains a CD Rom that has printable materials that you can use for the games. This is an excellent resource for when you need an entertaining and educational acting game.*

Glenn, Stanley. **The Complete Actor**. Massachusetts. Allyn and Bacon, Inc. 1977.

*Description: This book has been around for quite some time. I actually found this book in the withdrawn bin in the media center. I was glad that I picked it up because it actually does contain some very good exercises and assignments for students. Chapter 3 deals with Imagination and observation. I’ve used several of the assignments that deal with the importance of observation. One of the exercises deal with observing family members and writing down specific characteristics about them. This provides a fun lesson in sharing these with the class and learning how we can use these characteristics on stage.*

McGaw, Charles; Larry D. Clark. **Acting is Believing**. New York. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. 1996.

*Descriptions: This is another text book…designed for college, but it still has some great information and exercises that can be used in high school. It is actually pretty basic and it is geared more towards a college student who hasn’t had any theatre experience before. I use it mostly for the improv assignments and basic acting exercises that can be used in theatre I class.*

Collins, Brandilyn. **Getting into Character, Seven Secrets a Novelist can Learn from Actors**. New York. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2002.

*Description: This book is written more for someone wanting to be a novelist but there is still a lot of great material that relates to acting. It draws upon Method Acting theories and explains seven characterization techniques that can be adapted for acting and scene writing. The book can give you some great material for your lesson plans especially when discussing the importance of characterization and finding those small details that makes characters come to life on the stage.*